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800 Didn't Come

Registrations at the Association meeting in Saint Louis totaled 2770. The number is far from a record, but it is a paradox: It is greater than the sum of scientists resident in Saint Louis and the available beds for visiting scientists. The Permanent Secretary's Office is not prepared to offer any scientific explanation of the paradox, but it wishes to thank those who provided sleeping accommodations for friends or acquaintances, to commend those who ingeniously solved their own individual rooming problem, and to express its keen regrets to the 800 who, a week before the meeting, received notice that no more rooms were available, together with advice to remain at home.

Regrets, however sincere, provide meager comfort for disappointments endured. But the Permanent Secretary's Office worked—and hoped—up until the time the 800 notices were sent, toward the end of solving the housing problem. The story of the effort seems worth recounting.

In October, when the first postwar meeting of the Association became a possibility, Saint Louis was the only city that offered its facilities. They were severely limited, for the Hotel Association felt that only 625 rooms could be safely guaranteed. Despite the utter inadequacy of this figure, the Association proceeded with plans, in the conviction that a general meeting of scientists must be held before a full year had passed following the cessation of hostilities. From the start the matter of sleeping accommodations was made a major concern.

The Saint Louis Convention and Publicity Bureau and the Housing Bureau became allies in the project of finding rooms, and several other

organizations, together with individual Association members, gave invaluable help. The hotel guarantee was stretched to the point where at least 1300 people were actually taken care of. An extremely active and resourceful Association representative was employed to assist and to supplement the work of the Housing Bureau. Cots and blankets were secured in larger numbers than usable facilities to house them could be discovered.

In late February it was evident that, even in combination, these facilities would not be enough. But it was learned that Jefferson Barracks could easily absorb any overflow up to 1500, provided the War Department would approve use of the barracks by civilians. To eliminate the element of chance as far as possible, the Permanent Secretary's Office sought and received unofficial assurance from the highest authoritative source that the War Department had the power to sanction the quartering of civilians in barracks not in current military use; and the quartering of a group of discharged veterans in barracks near Washington provided a precedent. Thus equipped, the Washington Office went to work.

The sequel to the story can be guessed. The request was neatly passed from one officer to another. No one wanted to say "No," but no one had authority to say "Yes." It was finally placed before the Secretary of War, who, less than ten days prior to the meetings, said "No." Among the reasons given for refusal were the establishment of a precedent, which had already been established, and the shortage of manpower, which the Association had already volunteered to meet.

Only then did we advise the 800 to stay away.

Some of them disregarded the advice—they showed us their notices when they reached Saint Louis. A few complained bitterly. Others said nothing but may be thinking bitter thoughts. We earnestly wanted all 800 to hear the 1,000 or more speakers on the program, who were given priority on sleeping accommodations. Mindful of the civilian engineer who, on an air-trip to a Midwestern city to speak, was displaced

on the plane by a colonel who, with higher priority, was journeying to the same city to hear the engineer speak, the Permanent Secretary's Office felt obligated to protect Society and Section programs by giving priority to participants. It was to these participants that the 800 lost their places. We want them to know that their sacrifice contributed to the meeting's success.—H.A.M.

Resolution

Council Executive Committee Resolution

The Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science is glad to express its appreciative thanks to many institutions of Saint Louis and to many people of the City, for their helpful cooperation in making the fifth Saint Louis meeting of the Association a successful one, despite some difficulties due to postwar conditions. Held from March 27 to 30, this meeting was the Association's 112th meeting.

The Council appreciates the many facilities made available by the Saint Louis Convention and Publicity Bureau, by the hotels of the city, by the Saint Louis Academy of Sciences, and by Washington University and Saint Louis University. Cordial interest in the meeting was shown by the twenty-six members of the local advisory committee, by many other citizens and by the general public of Saint Louis. The local Press and the representatives of many metropolitan dailies and news syndicates provided amply for wide dissemination of news of this meeting throughout America and the world. Only the joint efforts of the public through local organizations and individuals and of the Association can effectively promote the advancement of science, and the Council welcomes this opportunity gratefully to acknowledge its debt.

A Constructive Proposal from Disappointment

At various times in human history periods of achievement have followed the struggles and devastations of war. That new ideas and ambitions are also stimulated in individuals by hardships and disappointments is illustrated by the suggestions and proposals that have come from several scientists who were prevented by local conditions from attending the St. Louis meeting of the Association. Instead of sulking because of conditions beyond the control of the officers of the Association, they have reflected on the question of what methods will best advance science and society in the changed and

uncertain world that now is before us and they have formulated their ideas for consideration.

Among those who have taken the time to put their ideas in writing are Mr. Howard P. Barss, Experiment Station Administrator (Botanist) of the Department of Agriculture, who has been a member of the Association since 1909, a fellow since 1914, and many times an adviser of its officers. These facts are recorded as evidence that he makes his proposals on a basis of broad experience in science and the Association, and hence justify their quotation for the information and consideration of many, although they were made in a personal letter intended for the eyes of but a few.

The parts of the letter from Mr. Barss that outline his reasons for desiring to attend the meeting, and include his suggestions for the future are as follows:

In my own case, if I had known sooner that I could not go to St. Louis, I would have had a better chance to arrange with more fortunate colleagues to represent me in several undertakings which I had been helping to plan for the meetings. These included: making arrangements in the Union of American Biological Societies, the Botanical Society of America, and the American Phytopathological Society for collaboration with UNESCO and FAO, for re-establishment of U. S. relations with the International Union of Biological Sciences, for promotion of a stronger federating organization for American biological sciences, for publishing summaries of international scientific progress in the field of plant diseases, making preparation for the next International Botanical Congress, laying the groundwork for a proposed new State-Federal cooperative research attack on the problem of plant disease losses in agriculture, planning for collaboration with the Civil Service Commission on setting educational standards for plant pathologists, and a number of other proposals for the advancement of science and of the services it can render.

You can appreciate my disappointment not to be able to participate in these first postwar meetings. The jam that developed was no fault of the Association. It was indicative of the tremendous surge of scientific activity and interest in this country. It is a good sign but it poses problems that the A.A.A.S. may find impossible of solution without a very definite change in its previous policy, hitherto largely successful, of arranging for a general annual meeting for affiliated societies as well as for itself.

It might prove more practicable hereafter to limit the annual A.A.A.S. meetings to sessions participated in by the officers, executive committee, Council, and the various working committees of the Association, and the officers of affiliated societies. The agenda would include the growing business of the Association and its committees, the usual public addresses from the retiring president and specially invited scientists, as well as a few symposia dealing with problems of concern to science which all members of the Association would be free to attend. The individual affiliated societies or groups of related societies could then arrange for independent annual meetings, not conflicting with the annual A.A.A.S. meeting. These society meetings could be held in dif-

ferent cities and would be devoted to society business and the presentation of scientific papers. I trust that the Executive Committee will give very serious consideration to making some changes which will help to meet these problems that have been growing in intensity with the growth of the Association and bid fair to continue to grow in severity if something quite radical is not done soon.

Many officers of the Association and of its affiliated and associated societies participate in establishing the policies of the Association meetings, but the secretaries of the sections and of the affiliated societies carry the principal burden of organizing the programs which are presented. In order to consider at least some of the possibilities Dr. Barss has proposed for consideration, the Association in the last three years has held day-long conferences of the secretaries of sections and of affiliated societies months in advance of prospective meetings. To reduce travel during the war period secretaries living in the East met in New York, while those living in the Middle West met in Chicago. It is expected that meetings of secretaries will be held within a few weeks in preparation for the meeting of the Association that is scheduled for Boston next December 26-31. During the war scientists, fired with unselfish and tireless zeal, achieved the miraculous. Now even broader and greater human interests rest in their keeping, for they alone of all mankind have the same problems, use identical methods, and strive for the same high goals, wherever they may live. On these loftier planes of scientific statesmanship, such proposals as those advanced by Dr. Barss call for serious consideration.—F.R.M.

Atomic Energy and Atomic Fogs

The potentialities of atomic energy seem to have fogged a great many issues and a great deal of thinking, and the editors of the BULLETIN do not pretend to have the wisdom to penetrate the fog. But the month of March revealed some of the cross currents which, in combination, have enveloped scientists, politicians, and public. Perhaps a preliminary analysis of the currents which can now be isolated will help clarify issues that are vital to the future of science, and no less important to the public welfare.

The blast of the atomic bomb in New Mexico shattered and seared the freedom from fear which was to have been guaranteed through victory over the totalitarian powers. It looks as if the bomb has brought the greatest fears to its inventors and to the possessors of its secrets, and it is not difficult to guess why. Its inventors, the

scientists, know its power to bring havoc to nations—indeed, to civilization itself. They know it can be employed to create a totalitarian control that will make Axis dictatorship look no worse than the discipline in a seventh grade classroom.

Its possessors, the military, know its offensive power, particularly in conjunction with jet propulsion and other scientific developments of the late but unlamented war. They know scientists can improve the technique of manufacture and step up the bomb's destructive power. And they likewise know that science is international, and that in time the scientists of other nations, not now in possession of the secret, can duplicate the performance of American scientists and technicians. The fears which have been generated have completely obscured a cause for thanksgiving and relief: The use of the bomb brought its existence into the open. It can not now be used as a surprise weapon. Its development could have been suppressed, for Japan was licked by the time the bomb was ready for use. Such a secret, regardless of the nationality of its inventors and possessors, would constitute a graver hazard to international amity than the current problem of its control.

Although the lines are not clearly drawn, the scientists and the military come out with different answers to the problem of control. The scientists, for the most part, want atomic energy controlled and the controls internationalized. The military, confident of its own integrity, wants control by continued and unshared possession.

It will be obvious that this is an over-simplified statement of an involved situation which, however, demands simplification if it is to be understood, especially by those who are vociferously taking sides but not analyzing consequences. And even though it is presumptuous to attempt an analysis, it seems worth trying at this juncture.

Much as we may all hope that the millenium of peace is about to arrive, there is little reason to believe that it is here. Until the signs are more propitious, no American can seriously advocate weakening our military establishment. Unfortunately, however, the military has a flare for weakening itself. It has demonstrated this genius in its relation to science and scientists. During the war both Army and Navy sponsored research of the highest caliber, but the Army displayed absolute indifference to scientific personnel except in the medical field. Students were not permitted to finish, much less to start, scientific training even in essential fields, and it would

be difficult to match the flagrant waste of manpower for which the Army through Selective Service must be held accountable. The war is now over, but the Army is still inducting all students in engineering and science, notwithstanding the fact that returning veterans have thus far provided our schools and colleges of engineering with much less than half of their normal prewar enrollment and our science departments with an even smaller quota of science students. It will take more than a decade, and possibly two, to replenish our scientific personnel if we do something about it now, but the Army has thus far blocked educators from making any progress. Yet a military establishment is only as effective as its technologists make it. Russia in the early stages of the war and China throughout the war demonstrated the futility of manpower without the weapons which science and industry can provide.

If General Groves accurately represented the thinking of the Army in the recent hearings of the Congress, it must be concluded that the approach to the problem of atomic energy is no more enlightened than it is to the problem of scientific personnel. In the first place, it is forgotten that the military possesses only the bomb—it does not possess the scientists who developed it and who are absolutely essential to its manufacture and to its improvement. It is doubtful if men of science can long be held under a military dictatorship, and any attempt to keep them in bondage is doomed to quick failure.

In the second place, the rigid restriction of all research on atomic energy will prompt other countries to impose similar restrictions, whereupon we shall be back where started—in an era of apprehension, of fear that some other nation is developing a super-bomb for world domination. Instead of the free interchange of scientific discoveries, we shall have an armament race that will ban freedom from fear—a race from which we, as its promoters, can not drop.

When Secretary Forrester testified before the McMahon committee on the atomic energy bill, the real significance of his remarks was lost in his mildly adverse criticism of the bill. The Navy Department has seen fit to reiterate those remarks in the address of Rear Admiral Bowen before the Section on Physics at Saint Louis: The Navy favors civilian control of atomic energy, and in the broad program of postwar research sketched by Admiral Bowen and Captain Lawrence, the Navy stands squarely for scientific freedom and against the rigid military controls apparently favored by the Army.

Scientists must applaud the Navy's stand, which may furnish cues to such things as the proposed merger of Army and Navy, and certainly to atomic energy as a national and an international problem. In this light the proposal of the Department of State, to establish international control over the few sources of fissionable raw materials and over their utilization until denatured, deserves thoughtful consideration. It seems to offer a basis of international accord and a reasonable assurance that a large and important field of science will once again become the property of the scientists—that scientific progress may once again be assured.—H.A.M.

The Press at Saint Louis

In appreciation of the service rendered to the public and to science, the Association in cooperation with the Westinghouse Educational Foundation awarded medals and certificates to thirteen newspaper writers who have pioneered in the difficult task of reporting scientific events and developments. If we recall the oft-cited example of a news editor's idea of news, the recognition of the Press at Saint Louis is news indeed!

The occasion prompts some introspection regarding the scientist's relation to the Press, and some thoughts which were distilled in the heat of the Press Room at Saint Louis may profitably be put on record. Scientists are naturally critical of the way in which scientific material is handled by newswriters, and Ralph Coghlan, addressing those who witnessed the citations at Saint Louis, freely granted that many a reporter and editorial writer had taken liberties which bordered upon license with facts and theories as they emerged from the laboratory. But we must grant his major point—that every science writer and, for that matter, every reporter wants facts and wants them straight. The first question is how to transmit scientific fact and theory to the Press.

Too commonly, scientists forget the problems connected with this first step because of their concern with the second question—how the scientific material will be transmitted to the public. It is here that most of the misunderstandings originate and most of the irritations develop. Scientists, however, are unable to spread their achievements directly before the public; they must use the Press, and their work must filter through the hands of human—and fallible—reporters with varying degrees of knowledge and experience in science reporting. Be it said at

once that the science writers who were honored at Saint Louis, and others who may be honored in the future, know their way around in the fields of science and technology. They have adopted as their own the standards of accuracy and intellectual integrity which motivate and guide the scientists. They do, however, have a different objective: Whereas the researcher wants a result, the reporter wants a story. The result and the story may not be identical, though both must make use of the same facts.

The facts are the basic ingredients for which the scientist is responsible, and the method of getting them to representatives of the Press is direct and simple. Reporters prefer to work from a written manuscript because it frees them from the hazards of error involved in reporting an oral presentation or an interview. Few of us realize the punishment which science writers inflict upon themselves reading science in manuscript in an effort to get and to check facts. At Saint Louis their most serious complaint was the dearth of manuscripts; and, in a week of good reporting, the best coverage was given those papers whose authors submitted advance copies to the Press Room. The reporters wanted to cover everything, but attendance at a score or more of simultaneous sessions or interviewing more than 1,000 authors presented insoluble problems, to which manuscript copies of addresses in the Press Room would have provided the only answer.

No one will be misled into believing that any science writer would have had the fortitude to read 1,000 or more manuscripts of technical papers in four days. The reporter must pick and choose and synthesize. Here the author may help, and the Association's representative in the Press Room gave what was rated as invaluable cooperation. Assistance from the author may well be in the form of a non-technical abstract featuring the important facts and implications of his research. But at this point, control passes from the hands of the scientists into the hands of the Press, just as, at the moment of presentation, his work moves beyond his control into the hands of his professional colleagues. Almost anything can happen to the professional presentation, and the same holds true when the Press takes over. Several years ago, the paper which won the Association's \$1,000 Prize Award was headlined in one newspaper as follows:

"DRIVES RATS CRAZY—IS GIVEN PRIZE"

The significant applications of the experimental work to problems of human insanity were sub-

merged in that unhappy, and no doubt vicious, headline.

In the hopeless feeling that he has no protection against this kind of reporting, a scientist may understandably seek to avoid the Press. But he can not, and he should not. President Truman's message of greeting to the Association at Saint Louis contains a statement which is all the more ominous because it is true: "Science has been in the public mind in recent years, but chiefly as an instrument of war."

Science is basically an instrument of peace, if only because its foundations are international. It behooves scientists, therefore, to tell the public what they are doing in order that the lop-sided and erroneous views about science may be corrected, and that the blame for war and other human tragedies may be placed squarely where it belongs—upon the military-minded who would control national and international policies, and even scientific freedom, and upon the inept who try to substitute demagoguery for the integrity of true leadership.

Scientists owe it to the public and to themselves to furnish the facts which they constantly uncover in their unending search for truth. They have no stauncher ally than the Press in achieving this aim. The Science Writers deserved the recognition accorded them at Saint Louis, and if they fell at all short in reporting the events of the meeting, we who presented papers must take the blame: We failed to tell the Press what we have been doing and what it means.—H.A.M.

Constitutions of the Association

At the St. Louis meeting of the Association, March 27-30, and of 41 affiliated and associated societies which held meetings with it, a revised constitution of the Association was adopted. The purposes of the revision were to set forth the present status of the gradually evolving purposes of the Association and to define more precisely the machinery of operation of a rapidly expanding organization. This revised constitution and the one it succeeded were published in full in the March 1, 1946, issue of *Science*.

When the Association was organized in 1848 it adopted and began operations under "Objects and Rules of the Association," comprising a statement of objects and 20 rules of procedure. The "objects" were almost identical with the constitution which has just been revised. In 1874 a completely revised constitution was adopted and the Association was incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massa-

chusetts. This constitution was amended in 1881, 1886, 1887 and 1889; in 1919 it was succeeded by a revised and largely new one which has been in effect, with minor amendments, until the present time, the one adopted at St. Louis going into effect on April 27.

Perhaps the evolution of the Association can be most easily and effectively illustrated by comparing its "Purposes" as set forth in Article I of its constitution with the corresponding article in the constitution adopted at St. Louis.

ARTICLE 1—OBJECTS (adopted 1919)

The objects of the Association are to promote intercourse among those who are cultivating science in different parts of America, to cooperate with other scientific societies and institutions, to give a stronger and more general impulse and more systematic direction to scientific research, and to procure for the labors of scientific men increased facilities and a wider usefulness.

The New Constitution

ARTICLE 1—OBJECTS

The objects of the American Association for the Advancement of Science are to further the work of scientists, to facilitate cooperation among them, to improve the effectiveness of science in the promotion of human welfare, and to increase public understanding and appreciation of the importance and promise of the methods of science in human progress. The Association is a nonprofit scientific and educational organization. It aims to conduct meetings and conferences of those interested in the various branches of science and education, to produce and distribute publications, to administer gifts and bequests as prescribed by the donors thereof, to provide support for research, to arrange awards for the accomplishment of scientific work, to cooperate with other organizations in the advancement of science and to engage in such other activities as shall have been authorized by the Council.

From 1848 until 1946 scientists, according to the constitution, were looking inward; now they are looking outward. In these earlier years they were primarily interested in science and themselves; now their vision encompasses all humanity. Formerly they assumed that the advancement of science depends upon scientists alone; now they realize that it rests also upon the understanding and appreciation of the public. Science has been transforming the physical environment of human beings; now it promises to provide patterns of thinking and ways of living. Science has already accomplished more than scientists a few decades ago dared to dream.

Since the Association has become a considerable business organization, the revised constitution defines explicit powers and modes of procedure. For example, the previous constitution states "The Council shall consist of the President, the Vice Presidents . . ." but contains no definite

statement about its powers. The revised constitution defines explicit powers of the Council as follows: "Control of all affairs of the Association is vested in the Council, which shall have power to review and to amend or rescind its own actions and all actions taken by the Executive Committee or by other agents to whom powers are delegated by this constitution or shall have been delegated by the Council." The previous constitution did not define quorum of the Council or of any other body having powers of making decisions. The revised constitution explicitly covers the question of quorum in every case. The responsibility for the finances of the Association, in the revised constitution, and modes of procedure are completely defined and indemnity bonds for performance of duties are required of those controlling funds of the Association. The procedure for amending the constitution are simplified and responsibility is placed in the Council.—F.R.M.

Symposium Publications

In the February issue of the *A.A.A.S. Bulletin* the symposium volumes still available in quantity were listed, as well as those nearing exhaustion and those out of print. Since those lists were prepared the volume entitled "*Recent Advances in Chemistry and Chemical Physics*" has been entirely sold out. So many orders for this volume have been received since it was exhausted that there is a possibility of its being reprinted. In order for a reprinting to pay for itself about 500 copies will have to be sold. Those desiring the book should promptly inform the office of the Association.

In the first three months of this year (Jan. 7–Apr. 4) 1564 copies of symposium publications were sold, reducing the stocks of several additional volumes to small numbers. Among those nearing exhaustion are *Tuberculosis and Leprosy*, *Fluorine and Dental Health*, *Mental Health*, and *Problems of Lake Biology*, while stocks of *Blood*, *Heart and Circulation* and of *Human Malaria* are getting low.—F.R.M.

The Society of American Bacteriologists

The Society of American Bacteriologists was organized at Yale University December 28, 1899. Its first constitution was adopted December 29 of that year. The first president of the Society was William T. Sedgwick and the first annual meeting was held in 1900 at Baltimore. Among the forty-seven distinguished scientists who have been president of the Society are two women—Alice C. Evans and Rebecca

Lancefield, and such men as W. T. Sedgwick, W. H. Welch, Theobald Smith, F. G. Novy, E. O. Jordan, Erwin F. Smith, James Carroll, William H. Park, Veranus A. Moore, F. P. Gorham and Hans Zinsser.

Annual meetings have been held regularly except in 1942, 1943 and 1945. For many years meetings were held in December, but the 1946 annual meeting will be held May 21-24 in Detroit, Michigan.

The objects of the Society are to facilitate personal intercourse among the members, to stimulate scientific investigation, to promote the results of research, and to plan, organize and administer projects for the advancement of the science of bacteriology. The term *bacteriology* is widely interpreted to include the whole field of microbiology, pure and applied.

Since its inception the Society has elected eighteen Honorary Members and twenty-five Corresponding Members. Active Members number more than 2100, and in 1945 there were 58 Sustaining Members. Any person interested in the advancement of the science of bacteriology is eligible for election as an Active Member. Annual dues for such members are \$7.50.

The Society has a number of publications. The first issue of the *Journal of Bacteriology* appeared January, 1916, under the editorship of Professor Winslow of Yale. In July, 1944, he relinquished the editorship to Professor James M. Sherman of Cornell University. Twelve numbers, comprising two volumes, are published annually. For a number of years the Society also published *Abstracts of Bacteriology*. At present the Society edits Section C. of *Biological Abstracts*—Dr. A. P. Hitchens, Health Officer, Wilmington, Delaware, Editor. The first issue of *Bacteriological Reviews* appeared December, 1937, under the editorship of Dr. Barnett Cohen of The Johns Hopkins University, the present editor. A fourth publication of the Society is *Bacteriological Monographs* under the editorship of Dr. Leroy Fothergill of Harvard University, and a fifth is the *News Letter*, edited by the Secretary-Treasurer of the Society. The Society is also interested in *Biotech Publications of Geneva, N. Y.*, a non-profit service to scientists under the leadership of Dr. H. J. Conn. In the past the Society has sponsored in one way or another the publication of such books as *Alice in Virusland* and *Bergey's Manual of Determinative Bacteriology*.

The Society maintains an Employment Bureau, directed by Dr. Carl S. Pederson of Geneva, New York; and it has representation in the American Association for the Advancement of Science; the American Type Culture Collection, which at one time it aided; the International Association of Microbiologists; the National Research Council; and the Union of American Biological Societies.

The Society is governed by a Council, whose chairman is the President of the Society, Dr. James Craigie, Connaught Laboratories, University of Toronto, and whose business is handled by the Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Leland W. Parr of The George Washington University. The Vice President is Dr. Thomas Francis, Jr., of the University of Michigan. The Past Presi-

dent is Dr. Stuart Mudd of the University of Pennsylvania. Elections are held annually and all officers serve without salary. Local Branches located in more than twenty areas of the United States function throughout the year. A Director of Local Branches for the Society, Dr. O. B. Williams, University of Texas, coordinates this activity. Local Branches whose membership includes twenty-five or more bacteriologists who are members of the national society elect Councilors. Of these there are at present twenty and these, with four Councilors-at-Large, the officers, the Chairman of the Program Committee, and the editors, constitute the Council of the Society whose membership is currently thirty-two.—LELAND W. PARR, Secretary-Treasurer.

The Society for Research on Meteorites

The incentive to organize a Society for Research on Meteorites stems from the discovery, made independently by many individuals working in widely diverse fields, of the fundamental scientific importance of understanding not only the place, mode, and time of origin of the cosmic masses that give rise to the luminous phenomena of meteors, but also the structure and composition of such masses, and, most vital of all, the effects of the infall of extra-terrestrial bodies upon our globe. Following preliminary conferences between Dr. F. C. Leonard, of the University of California at Los Angeles; Dr. H. H. Nininger, of the Colorado Museum of Natural History; Dr. C. C. Wylie, of the State University of Iowa; and other leaders in the field of meteoritics, the Society for Research on Meteorites was formally organized in Chicago on August 21-22, 1933. At the Organization Meeting, held in the Field Museum (now the Chicago Natural History Museum), the original Constitution and By-Laws were adopted, a Board of Editors was appointed, and Dr. Oliver Cummings Farrington was elected Honorary President for life, an office that he held, unfortunately, only for a short time, as his death occurred on November 2, 1933. The Society for Research on Meteorites was incorporated in 1936 and has been associated with the American Association for the Advancement of Science since 1935 and affiliated with that organization since 1938.

The objectives of the Society are well stated in its Constitution. They are "... to promote the discovery, collection, investigation and preservation of meteorites and to advance the science of meteoritics and related sciences through the increase and diffusion of knowledge concerning meteorites and meteors." The purpose of the organization as revealed in this quotation makes clear why the Society is international in scope, for meteorites fall on every portion of the earth and the cosmopolitan character of their distribution is rivaled only by that of investigators of meteoritic phenomena. Just prior to the outbreak of World War II, the Society had on its role nearly two hundred members representing thirty-one states of the Union and thirteen other countries. The war years were difficult ones for all young scientific organizations, but particularly so for an international group like the Society for Research on Meteorites. On the one hand, travel restrictions precluded both field work and the annual meetings (held without break from 1933 to 1941, generally in conjunction with the parent body of the American Association for the Advancement of Science—Section D, Astronomy—or Section E, Geology)—which had been of great value in stimulating interest in,

and investigation of, meteoritic phenomena. On the other hand, distressing losses, particularly of foreign members occurred; and the activity of all remaining members was seriously curtailed, in many cases because, at the sacrifice of personal scientific interests, members devoted all their time to the war effort.

Membership in the Society for Research on Meteorites is open to all interested in meteors and meteorites and consists of three classes: Patrons, Fellows, and Members. The Officers of the Society comprise a President, at least one and not more than three Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Editor. The governing body of the organization is the Council, which is composed of the Officers and the Councilors. The members of the Council are elected by ballot from among the Fellows of the Society at electoral meetings which, under normal conditions, are held once every four years. The Representatives of the Society in the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science is a member of the Council of the Society who is also a Fellow of the American Association. This Representative is appointed by the Council.

The Constitution of the Society for Research on Meteorites provides that this organization "... through the Council shall either establish and maintain its own series of publications or designate and employ one or more of the scientific periodicals of good reputation and wide circulation as its official journal or journals." Up to the present time, the latter procedure has been adopted by the successive Councils, all publications of the Society having appeared in the *Notes* (April, 1933 to December, 1934) and the *Contributions* (January, 1935 to date) published in the monthly journal, *Popular Astronomy*. From the inception of the Society to the present time, Dr. F. C. Leonard has acted as Editor of its publications. Examination of the more than eight hundred pages of meteoritics published under his editorship will disclose the extent to which members of the Society have realized the goal of this organization as set forth in its Constitution. In addition to the material published in *Popular Astronomy*, notable contributions to the solution of problems of high importance in the present Buck Rogers era of military research have been made by members of the Society for Research on Meteorites. Such contributions, dealing with ballistics at extreme altitudes and velocities, hyper-velocity impacts, distribution problems analogous to those earlier encountered in the study of meteorite falls, and a variety of other subjects, carry high classification and are not now available for general distribution. However, the existence of such proof of the practical value of meteoritics in grim war and uncertain peace should not be overlooked. This aspect of meteoritical investigations was of prime importance in motivating the late Dr. James F. Zimmernan, sixth President of the University of New Mexico, to create an Institute of Meteoritics at that University on June 17, 1944.

Any person who is interested in meteors and meteorites may, on nomination by two members of the Society for Research on Meteorites, be elected to membership in the Society by the Council or, when it is not in session, by its Executive Committee. The entrance fee to the Society for Research on Meteorites of each person elected for the first time as a member thereof is one dollar; the annual dues of each member, including a subscription to the *Contributions* of the Society, are two dollars; and any member in good standing may become a life member by the payment of a fee of fifty dollars.—LINCOLN LAPAZ, President.

Membership in the Association

Eligibility for Membership

Membership in the Association is open to all persons engaged in scientific work, whether in the fields of the natural or the social sciences; to all amateur scientists, whatever their special interests; and to all who desire to follow the advances of science and its effects upon civilization. Members having made substantial contributions to the advancement of science are eligible for election as fellows.

Dues and Publications

Membership dues are \$5 per year, including subscriptions for the monthly A.A.A.S. BULLETIN and either the weekly journal *Science*, now in its 103d volume, or *The Scientific Monthly*, now in its 62d volume. *Science* is a journal for professional scientists; the *Monthly* is a nontechnical journal for the intelligent public. The Association also publishes technical symposia and nontechnical books on science that are available for members at prices substantially below those to the public.

Organisation and Meetings

The Association was founded in 1848, with an initial membership of 461. Papers in its early programs were classified as either natural philosophy or natural history. Now its work is organized under 16 sections and 190 associated societies having a total membership of over 500,000. Its annual meetings are the greatest regular gatherings of scientists in the world.

Nominations and Applications for Membership

Members may submit nominations for membership at any time, and persons desiring to become members can obtain membership application forms from the Office of the Permanent Secretary, the Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington 25, D. C.

Changes of Address

New addresses for the Association's record and for mailing the journals *Science* and *The Scientific Monthly*, as well as the A.A.A.S. BULLETIN, should be in the Office of the Permanent Secretary, Washington 25, D. C., at least two weeks in advance of the date when the change is to become effective.

Officers of the Association

President, James B. Conant; **Permanent Secretary**, F. R. Moulton; **General Secretary**, Otis W. Caldwell; **Treasurer**, W. E. Wrather.

Executive Committee: Anton J. Carlson, *Chairman*; Otis W. Caldwell, Arthur H. Compton, James B. Conant, Charles F. Kettering, Burton E. Livingston, Kirtley F. Mather, Walter R. Miles, F. R. Moulton, Fernandus Payne, and Elvin C. Stakman.

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